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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Awarded \$356,000 in 'Buy California' Program

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly has been awarded \$356,000 under the state's "Buy California" program aimed at aiding specialty crop growers, California Secretary of Food and Agriculture William (Bill) J. Lyons Jr. announced in a recent news conference on campus.

An Agricultural Literacy Project designed to give agriculture a higher profile in K-12 classrooms statewide will receive \$280,000. A new series of Agricultural Policy Seminars for Cal Poly students was awarded \$76,000.

The Ag Literacy Project will be augmented by an additional \$295,000 in matching contributions from participating nonprofit groups, the agriculture industry, projects funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and governmental agencies. Project supporters include the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin, the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and the Agricultural Network.

To help conduct the series of policy seminars, Cal Poly will provide more than \$97,000 in matching funds and indirect costs. Supporters include Pacific Coast Producers, Mission Produce Inc. and Talley Farms.

The literacy project's goal is to familiarize California's K-12 teachers with a new curriculum guide -- developed at Cal Poly through a California Department of Education grant -- so they can integrate agricultural education with core subjects such as math, science, English, history and social science. The project director is Agricultural Education and Communication Professor Glen Casey.

In the 10-week ag policy seminars, to be offered two quarters a year, students will work with the agricultural community and government to research and analyze a wide range of perspectives on issues such as pest prevention, labor, workers' compensation, water and air quality. College of Agriculture Associate Dean Mark Shelton and Agribusiness Lecturer Ron de Yong will lead the project.

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